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**From:** Yogi, David  
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**Subject:** Draft for Your Rview

**EPA Data Shows Water Quality in San Juan River in the Navajo Nation Back to Pre-Gold King Mine Release Levels**

**DURANGO, CO** – Based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) surface water data collected after the Gold King Mine release on August 5, 2015, San Juan River water quality in Navajo Nation has returned to pre-release conditions. This determination is based a review of water quality data collected from August 7-15, 2015 at EPA’s sampling point near Hogback, N.M.

While concentrations for iron and other metals were greater than protective health standards on August 11 and 12, concentrations are now below these standards.

Given that river water has returned to pre-release conditions, EPA will suspend water delivery for agricultural and livestock use on Navajo Nation after Thursday, August 20, 2015.

*[USE AS QUOTE?...] EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye had productive phone conversation earlier in the day to review water quality data. EPA will work closely with Navajo Nation in the coming weeks to ensure that a long-term monitoring plan for San Juan River is implemented.*

Water and sediments from the mine were last observed at Nenahnezad, N.M., east of Hogback, N.M., on August 9, 2015.

For more information on EPA’s response to the Gold King Mine release, please visit: [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

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